

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 CONAKR 01258 191344Z
ACTION OPIC-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 EB-07 INT-05 COME-00 AID-05
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /041 W
-----114479 191350Z /46
R 191155Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3253
INFO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

UNCLAS CONAKRY 1258

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EMIN GV US
SUBJECT: MIFERGUI-NIMBA; U.S. STEEL TECHNICAL VISIT TO CONAKRY

REF: CONAKRY 1048

1. SEVEN-MAN U.S. STEEL TECHNICAL DELEGATION OF ENGINEERS AND GEOLOGISTS ARRIVED JULY 11 FOR FACT FINDING MISSION. ALL HAVE EXPERIENCE WITH OTHER IRON ORE PROJECTS (INCLUDING LAMCO, U.S. STEEL/VENEZUELA, CARAJAS, BRAZIL). TECHNICAL TEAM SPENT JULY 12-13 IN CONAKRY THEN LEFT EARLY JULY 14 FOR A PHYSICAL INSPECTION OF THE MINE SITE. ALTHOUGH SCHEDULED TO LEAVE JULY 13 FOR NIMBA, TRIP WAS POSTPONED DUE TO UNAVAILABILITY OF TRANSPORTATION. TEAM WAS SCHEDULED TO SPEND JULY 14 AT MINE SITE, JULY 15-16 INSPECTING LAMCO RAILWAY AND PORT FACILITIES, RETURN TO U.S. VIA MONROVIA JULY 17.

2. CONAKRY DISCUSSIONS CENTERED AROUND DETAILS OF PLANNED GOG INFRASTRUCTURE AND STATUS OF KAISER ENGINEERS FEASIBILITY STUDY. CORE SAMPLES TO DATE JUDGED INADEQUATE; PORTIONS CRUMBLLED BEFORE TESTS COMPLETED. MIFERGUI PROJECT MANAGERS HOPE NEW DRILLING TECHNIQUES WILL PRODUCE BETTER SAMPLES. NO DOUBT WAS CAST ON FUNDAMENTAL ASSUMPTIONS OF SIZE AND QUALITY OF ORE BODY. U.S. STEEL ENGINEERS INDICATED AWARENESS OF GOG EAGERNESS TO GET PROJECT MOVING AND SAID
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REPORT TO U.S. STEEL MANAGEMENT WOULD BE FINISHED LESS THAN TWO WEEKS AFTER FIELD TRIP. SEPT 14 DEADLINE (REFTEL, PARA 3) LOOKS FIRM. TEAM FELT KAISER'S FEASIBILITY STUDY WOULD YIELD HARD DATA BY SEPTEMBER ALTHOUGH FINAL RESULTS ARE NOT DUE UNTIL YEAR'S END.

3. COMMENT: OUTLOOK FOR U.S. STEEL'S PARTICIPATION IN

MIFERGUI-NIMBA REMAINS POSITIVE BUT IS NOT YET CONCLUSIVE.
MAINLAND

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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